



RESPONSE EMS - ALASKA



Volume 23, Number 1

Fall 2001



26th Annual EMS Symposium



This issue of RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA includes the schedule for the 2001 State EMS Symposium. This year's event will be held at the Egan Center, in Anchorage, on November 7, 8, 9, and 10. The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the special conference rate is \$80 per night (single or double). The toll free reservation line for the Hotel Captain Cook is (800) 478-3100 (in-state), (800) 843-1950 (out-of-state). A shuttle bus service will be provided to and from the conference site during normal conference hours.

As you can see from the schedule, this year's symposium should be both entertaining and educational. It is our 26th Annual EMS Symposium! We have many new and innovative speakers attending this year's event and welcome back several others who have made their marks on Alaska EMS.

Pre-Symposium Workshops

There are several high quality pre-symposium workshops from which to choose. These classes provide an opportunity to learn about a subject in more detail than is possible during the 90-minute presentations found on Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday, November 7, we will begin with a two-day *Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals* course. This course will be the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level and includes an instructors session at the end of day two. Registration is limited to 24, so don't delay!

Another two-day course begins on Wednesday, *12-Lead ECG Instructors Course*. This course is being taught by Gary Denton of Acute Coronary Syndrome Consultants, Inc. of Orlando, Florida. This course prepares instructors to teach 12-Lead ECG courses to other EMTs and Paramedics. Space is limited, so sign up today. Register by October 1 to avoid cancellation of the course.

Thursday, November 8, we have a full day planned with many options for obtaining continuing education credit. We are offering two full-day classes: *The Missing Protocol*, and *Bioterrorism Workshop*. There are also six half-day sessions: *New Trends in Drug Abuse*; *New Medicare Fee Schedule*; *Gatekeeper Training*; *Child Safety Seat Installation*; *"Till Death Do Us Part"*; and a *Billing Panel*.

All sessions will be at the Egan Convention Center but please check the schedule for time and details starting on page seven.

Opening Session

You don't want to miss this year's opening session. As in years past, we will announce the nominees and winners of many of the Governor's EMS awards. This will provide an opportunity for award winners and nominees to be recognized by their peers and colleagues during Symposium.



General Session

This year's General Session should prove quite entertaining. Our presenter is EMS cartoonist, *Steve Berry*.

Steve has been a paramedic and EMS instructor for the past 17 years and draws about his experiences and those of associates. He has published seven EMS cartoon books and has presented around the country, most recently at *EMS Today* in Baltimore, Maryland.

Steve uses his cartoons in his presentations to highlight points related to his lecture topic. Although the cartoons are humorous in nature, Steve feels that the listener's are more likely to remember the message if it makes them laugh.

(continued on page 3)

An Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Publication

Tony Knowles, Governor

Karen Perdue, Commissioner

RESPONSE: EMS Alaska

Published by the Section of Community Health & Emergency Medical Services, Division of Public Health, Department of Health & Social Services.

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INJURY PREVENTION TRACK



Injury remains the number one cause of death of Alaskans age 1 through 44. How can pre-hospital providers be better prepared for the injuries they will encounter when responding to an emergency? This year's injury prevention track emphasizes mechanisms of injury and the clues they give for assessing a patient's condition. The symposium's injury prevention track includes sessions on poisoning, avalanche dangers, snow machine injuries, and car crash injuries.

Gatekeeper Training will be presented in the Thursday morning pre-symposium session. Suicide touches all Alaskans and in every corner of the state. Gatekeeper training has been scheduled again this year due to last year's strong interest. The purpose of this session is to give EMTs and other natural gatekeepers the tools they need to recognize people at risk and refer them to appropriate services.

Most people buy a child safety seat and just put it in the car without ever picking up the manual. Did you know that nationally and in Alaska at least four out of every five seats are installed incorrectly? Thursday's afternoon session will teach participants about child passenger safety and proper installation of child safety seats. It will also provide re-certification training for technicians.

We hope to see many of you at these presentations to learn from and be inspired by the excellent speakers that we have lined up for this track.

On Friday, November 9, 2001, Providence Alaska Medical Center will sponsor the Safe Kids Luncheon for those who are active or interested in child safety issues. The luncheon will be limited to the first fifty pre-registrants. You won't want to miss this exciting luncheon!

CLINICAL TRACK



This year's clinical track promises to be exciting and has something to offer everyone. The program will span three days, beginning on Thursday, November 8th.

Thursday is a full day with presentations starting at 8:30 am and going to 5 pm. Please refer to the schedule beginning on page 7. In addition to the clinical track there are other options that participants may be interested in attending, such as the one-day *Bioterrorism Workshop*, *New Drug Trends in Alaska* or the presentation in the afternoon on domestic violence – *"Till Death Do Us Part."* Continuing education credit will be available for all these presentations.

Friday is the official start of symposium with a clinical track presentation at 8:30 am followed by the keynote presentation at 10:30 am. This year's presenter is Steve Berry, a paramedic and cartoonist, who is well known in EMS. He will present *"The Joy of*

(Continued on page 3)

(continued from Page 1)

His general session topic is "The Joy of EMS." In this presentation he will address how you can keep the joy in your work for the long haul. This talk will take a journey beyond emergency medicine and patient care. Steve will take us on a humorous and lighthearted look at ourselves and how we can implement skills to keep the joy in our profession, long after the rookie stage – when we just wanted to be heroes.

(Continued from page 2)

EMS." There are two free luncheons offered that day, one is the Safe Kids luncheon at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel and the other is an EMS Instructors Luncheon at Alaska Regional Hospital. If you are interested in attending either luncheon, pre-registration is required since seating is limited.

The next day we have presentations related to poisonings presented by the medical director of the Oregon Poison Center in Portland. In the afternoon the Physician Medical Directors will meet for their annual meeting and have a presentation on legal issues specific to medical directors. The afternoon session will begin at noon with a Physician Medical Director's luncheon followed by the meeting and should go through the afternoon until about 5 pm. This is your opportunity, for medical directors and other interested persons, to ask questions and network with medical directors from around the state. Please feel free to contact Doreen Risley at the state EMS office, at 465-8633, with any concerns you would like addressed at this meeting.

Please take a look at the list of lecturers and topics we have assembled. We think you will agree that it is an exciting program. Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. Nursing CEUs have also been applied for.

We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage at the 26th Annual EMS Symposium in November.

Pre-Symposium Highlights

The New Medicare Fee Schedule

In 1997 the Congress required that Medicare change the way it pays for ambulance services for Medicare beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS--formerly HCFA) is expected to



begin a 4 year phase-in of the new National Fee Schedule for ambulance service within the next 3-6 months. This new fee schedule is likely to result in major changes in current reimbursement for most ambulance services. It is also likely to change how EMS personnel do their jobs.

Up until now, ambulance service has been paid by Medicare based on historic billing practices of the ambulance services in the local geographic area. Services that had high charges had high reimbursement rates. Services such as local government-based and volunteer services typically had lower charges and as a result, lower reimbursement rates. Hospitals that operate ambulance services were reimbursed for their actual costs. The result of these two payment methods is that Medicare paid anywhere from \$25 to \$1,000 for the same service.

The new fee schedule will put everyone on the same national fee schedule with minor adjustments for variation in cost of living. There will also be additional payments for the trips that originate in rural areas. In Alaska, everything outside of the Municipality of Anchorage qualifies as a rural area.

The fee schedule has not been finalized yet, but based on the Proposed Rule published by HCFA last September, it is expected that the National and Alaska (adjusted for the Geographic Practice Cost Index for Alaska) fees will be close to the following:

Level of Service	National Allowed	Alaska Allowed
BLS	\$162.65	\$176.49
BLS Emergency	\$260.23	\$282.38
ALS	\$195.18	\$211.78
ALS Emergency	\$309.03	\$335.32
ALS 2 (e.g. cardiac arrest)	\$447.28	\$485.33
Specialty Care Transport	\$528.60	\$573.58
Mileage (base)	\$5.00	\$5.00
Rural Mileage (mile 1-17)	\$7.50	\$7.50
Rural Mileage (mile 18-50)	\$6.25	\$6.25
Rural Mileage (mile 51 +)	\$5.00	\$5.00

NOTE: the fee schedule lists what Medicare "Allows." The actual payment will be 80% of the fee schedule amount or the amount billed, whichever is LESS. Services will still have to collect the 20% coinsurance and unmet deductible from the patient.

As mentioned earlier, HCFA published the proposed fee schedule last September. It had hoped to implement it on January 1, 2001. However, because of the large number of comments received, the agency has yet to publish a final rule. The next possible implementation date is September 1, 2001 at the earliest. For those who are interested, the latest information about the fee schedule is available at: <http://members.home.com/tomscott/feesched.htm>, you can also hear Tom discuss the new fee schedule at the 2001 EMS Symposium on Thursday morning, November 8.

Hotel Reservations

The hosting hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook where the conference rate is \$80 per night. The toll free reservation line for the hotel is 800-478-3100 (in-state), 800-843-1950 (out-of-state). Those needing hotel reservations are encouraged to contact the Hotel Captain Cook as soon as possible and before October 10, 2001, to guarantee the special symposium rate. Information regarding the shuttle bus service to and from the conference site will be available at hotel check-in.

We remind you of the importance of staying at our host hotel, the Hotel Captain Cook, which is offering us the special symposium rate. While we realize that some of you may want to stay at other locations for a variety of reasons, your support is very important to the Symposium overall. Staying at the official host hotel assists in many ways, including offering significantly reduced costs for our speaker rooms, providing the shuttle service to the Egan Center, and other benefits based on the number of hotel rooms used. This in turn, allows us to bring you the highest quality speakers and helps us to keep the Symposium registration fees at the same low rates as in previous years.

Parking

The Egan Center is located on 5th Avenue between E and F Streets and there are many convenient options for parking nearby. There are approximately **800 free parking spaces** within a five-block radius of the Egan Center. Monday through Friday, between 9 AM and 6 PM, you may park for two hours on a block. On Saturday, Sunday, evenings, and municipal holidays, free parking is permitted at all metered spaces. Parking and garages nearby include:

- JC Penney Garage (6th and Fifth Street)
\$8.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 6th Avenue Parking Garage (enter on H Street)
\$5.00 all day (75 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours
- 5th Avenue Parking Garage (5th and B Street)
\$5.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours
- Post Office Mall and Lower Bowl Lots (3rd Ave., between E and C Street)
\$.50/hour—2 hour metered lots
- Dimond Parking Lots
Weekdays by the hour
Saturday, \$2.00 all day
- Hotel Captain Cook Parking (5th Avenue and K Street)
\$15.00/day for valet parking in garage
\$12.00 all day, self parking

(Parking prices subject to change)

Participate in the 24th Annual All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition

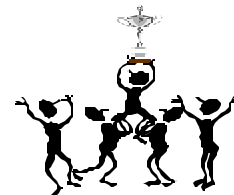
The King Career Center Emergency Services Technology Program and the Alaska Medical Support Team are organizing the All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition. This annual event will be staged on Saturday, November 10th, in the Egan Center.

The organizers of the skills competition will distribute to all teams who pre-register a list of specific criteria by which the teams will be judged, as well as the criteria used for tie breaking. The criteria also will be sent to those organizations requesting them in writing.

Trophies and plaques for the top five teams will be presented at a ceremony during the awards banquet on Saturday, November 10th, at the Egan Center. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Entry forms are contained in this issue, if you have any further questions, please contact Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition Rules

- Three practical problems will be selected from the EMT-I skills levels.
- Only one team (two members) from each organization may enroll.
- Each team is required to bring its own trauma kit, equipped as the members see fit. Any specialized equipment required for the practical will be furnished by the committee. If it is not possible to bring a kit, please let the committee know in advance and one will be supplied. No books will be allowed.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each team must send completed entry blanks before November 2, 2001, so adequate plans may be made for space. Late entries may be accepted on a space available basis.
- Each team is composed of two competitors and one judge. That judge will proctor a team other than the one from his or her service area. The judge may come from an area outside the team's service area. The judge must be certified to at least the EMT-I level.



It's not too early to begin planning for the 2002 Alaska EMS Symposium! Topics and speakers will be largely determined by Symposium evaluations and letters. **Let us know your ideas!** Check your symposium program, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., and the Section of Community Health and EMS web sites for the dates.



Upcoming Regional Symposia

Southeast Region EMS Symposium

April 10—13, 2002

(4/10 & 4/11 are pre-symposium classes)

Sitka, Alaska

Information:

Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.

(907)747-8005

serems@ptialaska.net

Interior Region 8th Annual EMS Symposium

April 4—7, 2002

(4/4 & 4/5 are pre-symposium classes)

Fairbanks, Alaska

Information:

Interior Region EMS Council, Inc

(907)456-3978

<http://www.iremcs.org>

MOTORCYCLE FACTS AND MYTHS



With the warm weather comes the various sights and sounds of spring and summer, among them the distinctive sound of motorcycles on the highway. Many motorcyclists ride with their one helmet strapped to the seat or bar behind them. Presumably this is for any passengers they may pick up as, by law, passengers must wear a helmet. Here are some myths and facts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding helmet use.

Myth 1: Helmets impair hearing and sight.

Normal peripheral vision is between 200° and 220°. Federal safety standards require that helmets provide 210° of vision. Over 90 percent of crashes happen within a range of 160° (with the majority of the remainder occurring in rear-end collisions). It is clear that helmets do not affect peripheral vision or contribute to crashes.

Helmets reduce the loudness of the noises but do not affect the rider's ability to distinguish between sounds. The University of Southern California conducted on-scene in-depth investigations of 900 motorcycle crash scenes, and could not uncover a single case in which a rider could not detect a critical traffic sound.

Myth 2: Helmets cause neck or spinal cord injuries.

Research has proved this untrue. Five studies all reported a higher incidence of severe neck injuries for unhelmeted riders. An Illinois study found that helmets decrease the number of significant spinal injuries.

Fact 1: Head injury is a leading cause of death in motorcycle crashes.

Helmets don't prevent motorcycle crashes, but in the event of a crash, riders wearing a helmet have a 29 percent better chance of surviving a crash than riders without a helmet.

Fact 2: Motorcycle helmets offer motorcyclists involved in traffic crashes the best protection from head injury.

Unhelmeted motorcyclists involved in crashes were three times more likely to suffer brain injury than those using helmets.

Martha Moore

Injury Surveillance and Injury Prevention Manager

In Memoriam

Kathy Sloan, RN, PhD

On Thursday, August 2, 2001, Kathy Sloan died after a long illness at 51 years of age. Kathy was a long time supporter of EMS in Alaska. She was one of Governor Hammond's original appointments to the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS) in 1977, and she continued to serve on the Council until 1989. During her 12 years on ACEMS, Kathy served in many roles and was elected chairperson in 1986. Kathy also worked as an emergency nurse and emergency department nurse manager at Providence Alaska Medical Center for many years. After her retirement, she did some consulting work and completed her doctorate in nursing at the Boston University. One of her projects was an evaluation of different techniques to get snowmachine riders to wear helmets in the Northwest Arctic Borough. Kathy also was heavily involved in a project to update the Community Health Aide/Practitioner manual for the Alaska Area Native Health Service and the State Community Health Aide Program.

The emergency medical services system in Alaska benefited greatly from Kathy's involvement, and she will be missed by EMS and other health care providers throughout the state.



EMS Symposium Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits for EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, nurses, physicians and physician assistants are being arranged for most of the programs.

"Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity."

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.'s web site after September 10, 2001, at <http://www.sremsc.org>.

EMS Symposium Special Events

- ◆ There will be the third Annual EMS Instructors Luncheon sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital on Friday, November 9th, from 12:15 - 1:30 PM. It will be located at Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Road. You can sign-up to attend on the symposium pre-registration form. Space is limited to the first 50.
- ◆ The Twenty-fourth Annual All Alaska EMT Skills Competition will be held on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the skills competition is being organized by EMT-Instructor Alan Loken and sponsored by the Alaska Medical Support Team. (See page 4 for details)
- ◆ The Twenty-fourth Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at the Egan Center. Annual Governor's EMS Awards will be presented to a Consumer/Citizen, Provider, Administrator/Researcher, Nurse (the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award), EMS Educator, and a Physician (the Longenbaugh Memorial Award). An Outstanding Ambulance Service award and a \$500 gift certificate from Safety Incorporated also will be presented.

Because of subsidies generously provided by several vendors, the cost for the banquet is only \$25. The menu will be a ceasar salad; Choice of Boneless Breast of Chicken stuffed with prosciutto ham, sundried tomatoes, and cheeses, served with Sauce a La Rouge or Grilled Flank Steak with bordelaise sauce and onion straws; and coconut cream pie. Please indicate any special dietary needs when pre-registering.

Airfare



Alaska Airlines is offering discounted airfare for travel to the Symposium. They will give **5%** discount on all published excursion fares except for companion fares, "V" inventory or other promotional offers. They will discount **10%** from YAS booked in "Y" inventory. All fare rules apply. Request code **CMR5160**.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL EMS AWARDS



The 24th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on November 10, 2001 at the Anchorage Egan Convention Center and will again provide us with an opportunity to honor individual Alaskans who have saved lives or reduced injuries of fellow Alaskans through heroic actions or meritorious service. Nominations can be made in the following categories:

EMS Citizen Award (person not in the regular line of duty who performs life-saving, limb-saving, or medical techniques in a medical emergency)

EMS Provider Award (medically trained person who performs meritorious service above and beyond expectations of the job)

EMS Administrator or Researcher Award (person who successfully develops a new approach, technique, device, etc. to improve EMS in Alaska and/or an outstanding administrator in an EMS agency or service)

EMS Educator Award (state-certified EMT or ETT Instructor who is dedicated to quality instruction and promoting the best in prehospital care or has made an outstanding contribution to EMS education)

George H. Longenbaugh, MD, Memorial Award (physician who exemplifies leadership and dedication to EMS systems and has significantly promoted the Alaska EMS system)

Melissa Ann Peters, RN, Memorial Award (outstanding nurse who has contributed in a special way to the encouragement of EMS skills, efforts, and education)

Outstanding Ambulance Service Award (for ambulance or first responder group that provides year-round service/gains community support in its service/educational activities)

Special Commendation (for air medical services, injury promotion/prevention, organizations and individuals that support EMS activities)

It's not too early to begin thinking about who you would like to honor in your EMS service this year. Nominations for the awards will be solicited beginning the first week in August and the deadline for submissions is Friday, September 14, 2001. Nominations should be mailed to:

Shelley K. Owens
Section of Community Health & EMS
P.O. Box 110616
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

Further information about the award criteria or procedures can be found at the website for the State EMS Office at http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_awards.htm or by contacting Shelley K. Owens at 465-3028 or by email at shelley_owens@health.state.ak.us.

26th ANNUAL EMS SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

2 DAY WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 8

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

(BLS/ALS Track)

Pediatric Education for Prehospital

Professionals

Debby Hassel, NREMT-P

Fairbanks Fire Department

Cost – \$100.00 (space is limited)

(Instructors Track)

12-Lead ECG Instructors Course

Gary Denton

Acute Coronary Syndrome Consultants,
Inc.

Orlando, Florida

Cost— \$ 200.00 (space is limited, Sign
up by October 1 to avoid cancellation
of the course)

1 DAY WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

(BLS/ALS Track)

The Missing Protocol

(Documentation Workshop)

Denise H. Graham, RN, BSN, CLNC

MidAtlantic Medical Legal Consultants

Cost – \$ 50.00

(BLS/ALS Track)

Deadly Silence: Is Your Community

Ready for a Bioterrorism Event?

Ted Cieslak, MD

United States Army—Medical Research

Institute of Infectious Diseases

Fort Detrick, Maryland

Cost – \$ 50.00

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

Cost – \$50.00 for all or any part of the day

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

(BLS/ALS/Nursing Track)

New Trends in Drug Abuse

Deb Blizzard, RN

Soldotna, Alaska

(Management Track)

New Medicare Fee Schedule

Tom Scott

Scott Consulting

Poway, CA

(Injury Prevention Track)

Gatekeeper Training: Recognizing
and Intervening in the Suicidal

Patient

Susan Soule

Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Anchorage, Alaska

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

(BLS/ALS/Nursing Track)

“Till Death Do Us Part”

(Domestic Violence Presentation)

Deb Blizzard, RN

Soldotna, Alaska

(Management Track)

Billing Panel

Kathy Fosselman, Facilitator

Fosselman and Weiland CPAs

Palmer, AK

(Injury Prevention Track)

Child Restraint Seats Made Easy

Gordon Glaser

Section of Community Health and

EMS, DHSS

6:00 PM

Welcoming Reception

Hotel Captain Cook

CLINICAL TRACK*

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Legal Aspects of EMS

Alan Azzara, Esq., EMT-P

Westport, ME

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Anticoagulation in the Acute

Coronary Syndrome, DVT and

Pulmonary Emboli

Charles Pollack, MD

Philadelphia, PA

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Trauma Rehabilitation: Picking

Up the Pieces

Joella Beard, MD

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Anchorage, AK

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Evaluation and Management of

Blunt Trauma to the Chest and

Abdomen in Children

Stephen Jolley, MD

Pediatric General Surgery

Anchorage, AK

6:00 PM

Welcoming Reception

Hotel Captain Cook

* “Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.”

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.’s web site after September 10, 2001, at <http://www.sremsc.org>.

**All classes are held at the
Egan Convention Center.
Please note times and
special instructions.**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	<u>Registration</u>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<u>Opening Session</u> Mark S. Johnson, MPA, Chief Section of Community Health & EMS Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager Section of Community Health & EMS
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<u>General Session</u> <u>The Joy of EMS</u> Steve Berry, EMT-P Colorado Springs, CO
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH <i>Safe Kids' Luncheon</i> Top of the World Hilton Anchorage <i>EMS Instructors' Luncheon</i> Sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Care for the Emergency Service Provider</u> Debby Hassel Fairbanks Fire Department
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Service With a Smile</u> Steve Berry, EMT-P
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>To Fly or Not to Fly?</u> Brian Carriere, RN, EMT-P, CFRN LifeGuard Alaska
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Patient Medication: The Key to Better Assessment</u> Alan J. Azzara, Esq., EMT-P Westport, Maine
(Injury Prevention)	<u>Poisoning Prevention</u> Tonya Draydon, RN, CSPI Oregon Poison Center Portland, Oregon
(Instructor Track)	<u>"Be There When You are Not There:" Online EMS Instructor</u> Curt Madison Rivertracks Productions Fairbanks, Alaska
(Management Track)	<u>Telecommunications Infrastructure</u> Tom Bohn, Tri-agency Liaison AK Federal Health Care Access Network Project Staff Anchorage, Alaska
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Mentoring the Field Provider</u> David J. Gurchiek, BS, NREMT-P Billings, MT
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Poisoning Management</u> Tonya Draydon, RN, CSPI Oregon Poison Center Portland, Oregon

(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>Basic Communications Panel</u> Mark Johnson, Facilitator Section of Community Health and EMS
(BLS/ALS Track)	<u>JumpSTART Triage for Children in Multi-Casualty Incidents.</u> Helen Miller, MD Eugene, Oregon
(Instructor Track)	<u>Putting Levity in Education</u> Steve Berry Colorado Springs, CO
(Injury Prevention)	<u>Avalanche Safety</u> Jill Fredston Alaska Mountain Safety Center
(Management Track)	<u>New Medicare Fee Schedule</u> Tom Scott Scott Consulting Poway, CA

CLINICAL TRACK

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<u>Bioterrorism</u> TBA
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>General Session</u> <u>The Joy of EMS</u> Steve Berry, EMT-P Colorado Springs, CO
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>Initial Care of Penetrating Injuries in Children</u> Helen Miller, MD Eugene, Oregon
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	<u>Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN) Telehealth Equipment Overview</u> Dr. Chris Patricoski Clinical Director AFHCAN Project Staff Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENTION:

The Alaska Council on EMS, Public Information and Education Committee is sponsoring a photo contest with prizes for the "Best Action Photo," "Best Overall EMS Photo," and "Best Squad Photo." Photos are due to Skip Richards by October 1, 2001.

Skip Richards
EMS Coordinator
4252 Hohe Street, Suite B
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-0577



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

(BLS/ALS Track)

"I have been so wrong..." Medical Myths in EMS

Bill Kriegsman, RN, MICP
Oakville, Washington

(BLS/ALS Track)

Medical Emergencies: A Sherlock Holmes Approach to Assessment

David J. Gurchiek NREMT -P
Billings, MT

(BLS/ALS Track)

Kids Killing Kids: The School Shooting Epidemic

Helen Miller, MD
Eugene, Oregon

(BLS/ALS Track)

Double Jeopardy

Brian Carriere, RN, EMT-P, CFRN
LifeGuard Alaska

(Management Track)

Telemedicine in the Medevac Environment

Fred Pearce
University of Alaska Anchorage

(Injury Prevention)

Snowmachine Injuries

Stephen Tower, MD
Anchorage, Alaska

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

(BLS/ALS Track)

Managing the Intoxicated Patients

Virginia McMichael, EMT-III
Chugach, Alaska

(BLS/ALS Track)

Wilderness Wound Care

Rob Janick, MICP
Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Sitka, Alaska

(BLS/ALS Track)

Radio Speak: The Art of Verbalizing a Visual Image

David J. Gurchiek NREMT -P
Billings, MT

(BLS/ALS Track)

Orthopedic Injuries

Stephen Tower, MD
Anchorage, Alaska

(Management Track)

Communications in Disasters—Key is Preparation

Duane Mariotti
Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

(Injury Prevention)

Crash Injury Mechanisms

Robert Kaufmann
Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

(BLS/ALS Track)

Get it When You Want It: Control Your Own Learning

Curt Madison
Rivertracks Productions
Fairbanks, Alaska

(BLS/ALS Track)

"They Implant Stereos, Don't They?"

Duane Mariotti
Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

(BLS/ALS Track)

*Medic Madness***

Master of Ceremony:
Valerie DeFrance, MICP

(Management Track)

Air Ambulance Issues Meeting

Jason Schwebach, Facilitator
Program Director
LifeGuard Alaska

1:30 PM

Skills Competition

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

CLINICAL TRACK

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Drugs of Abuse

Zane Horowitz, MD
Medical Director
Oregon Poison Center

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 AM

Nerve Gas Poisoning

Zane Horowitz, MD
Medical Director
Oregon Poison Center

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

(Nursing Track)

Nurses and Paramedics: Working Together

Bill Kriegsman, RN, MICP
Oakville, WA

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

EMS Medical Directors
Workshop

** See article on page 2 for additional information regarding this session.*

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

Medic



Madness

**** Medic Madness**

Where are you in the evolutionary chain of EMS knowledge? Play in our EMS game show and find out! Bring a partner, or get stuck with the guy next to you. Prizes for the top 3 scoring teams! Game show host Sero Tonin and her lovely assistant Ami Odarone.

New Assistance in the Prevention and Treatment of Poisonings



Poisons are everywhere, in kitchens, bathrooms, garages and elsewhere in the home. Poisoning in Alaska poses a significant problem with 392 deaths during 1990-1998 (Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2001). Fifty-two Alaskans died from poisoning in 1998 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2001). A combination of poison control centers, toll-free poison control numbers, public education and increased sophistication in medical care can decrease the poisonings and poisoning deaths.

The U.S. Congress passed legislation in February 2000 to stabilize and enhance a national system of Poison Control Centers. The Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act (Public Law 106-174) establishes a nationwide toll-free telephone line and a public education campaign, and provides funding to certified poison control centers.

Poison Control Centers can help prevent poisonings and ensure appropriate treatment when they occur, including poisonings from household products, medications, biological toxins, alcohol, illicit drugs, medical errors, or occupational chemicals. Prevention activities include: encouraging safe behaviors, public information about hazards of toxic agents; reaching out to vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and parents of small children; and encouraging technologies like child resistant containers and bottle caps.

Alaska does not currently have a certified poison control center and has relied upon a few hospitals to provide this vital service. The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), as the agency who certifies poison centers, has advised the State of Alaska that it does not have a sufficient population to support its own certified poison control center. Therefore, the Alaska Poison Control System Planning Task Force was formed and has recommended that the Oregon Poison Center (OPC), based in Portland, Oregon, serve Alaska. OPC is a nationally certified poison control center at Oregon Health Sciences University.

The Oregon Poison Center will provide emergency poison control information services to Alaska residents and visitors for the next three years, starting on September 1st, 2001. We are delighted to inform Alaskans of this new service. In addition, the new

nationwide toll-free telephone number (1-800-222-1222) will go into effect on September 1st in Alaska. If you think someone has been poisoned call the number right away. Do not wait for the victim to look or feel sick. It is free to callers. This new number is the same throughout the United States and is forwarded to the poison center servicing your call area. So once you memorize the number in Alaska it will work anywhere you travel in the U.S.

The Oregon Poison Center (OPC) will provide emergency poison control information services by the nationwide toll-free telephone to Alaska residents and visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service includes receiving the initial call and providing additional contacts required ensuring appropriate medical care and follow up. The OPC will also provide educational assistance to health care providers in Alaska about the resources available through the poison center, and the epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of poisonings in Alaska.

Please contact Raj Maskay at the Section of Community Health and EMS for more information or visit our website at:

http://www.chems.alaska.gov/ems_poison_control.htm.

*Raj Maskay
Poison Control System Coordinator*

New State EMS Training Coordinator

We are delighted to announce that Kathy McLeron, MICP, PA-C has joined the CHEMS staff as the new State EMS Training Coordinator (Public Health Specialist II).

Kathy's EMS experience spans two decades. In addition to being a Physician Assistant and paramedic, she is an EMT-I/III Instructor. She has a wealth of ground ambulance experience in rural, suburban and very urban settings and has been one of the MICP/PA's on the North Slope Borough Critical Care Air Ambulance since 1994.

Kathy will oversee the section's EMS training and certification activities. We are fortunate to have someone of Kathy's caliber in this important position. Kathy can be reached at:

kathy_mcleron@health.state.ak.us
907-465-4041
907-465-4101 (fax)

An Early Thanksgiving

In rural and frontier Alaska, emergency medical services providers face daunting challenges, including: the necessity of sometimes providing emergency medical care to family and friends; low numbers of emergency medical calls which make the needs for training more acute; long transport times; reliance on equipment which often is aged and failing; and difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteer personnel. These challenges were the reason the Code Blue Project was started in 1999.



Two years later, the Alaska Code Blue Project has made significant strides, receiving substantial funds from federal, state and local agencies to purchase essential equipment and provide additional training for rural emergency medical services personnel. The numbers are impressive. The Denali Commission has pledged up to a million dollars to pay for critical EMS infrastructure needs, such as radio repeaters. The Rasmuson Foundation, an Anchorage based philanthropic organization that supports non-profit organizations which strive to improve the quality of life for people throughout the state, contributed 1.125 million dollars to match other funding sources. The United States Department of Agriculture has reserved over 2.75 million dollars for the project. The State of Alaska will be contributing over \$600,000 and local communities nearly the same amount. And, soon, we will be receiving an EMS Training Grant from the Health Resources Services Administration for nearly \$500,000.

While there remains much to be done on this important project, it's not too early to give thanks to some of those who have gotten it to where it is today. They include: **Karen Perdue**, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services who saw the opportunity and potential for the project and put us on the right path; **Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer**, a long time friend to EMS, who persuasively articulated the needs of rural EMS at the highest levels; **Sheila Selkregg**, former State Director for the Rural Development Office of the USDA, an early and enthusiastic supporter of the project who helped open many doors; **Jeff Staser**, Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission, who encouraged other agencies to participate in the project; **Kevin Ritchie** of the Alaska Municipal League and a member of the Denali Commission, who supported the project from the beginning and made sage recommendations throughout its early development; **Governor Tony Knowles**, who included \$533,000 in his capital budget for Code Blue matching funds; **Diane Kaplan**, of the Rasmuson Foundation, who helped guide and motivate us at a critical time in the project's development; **Senator Ted Stevens**, who helped make federal resources available; and **Alaska Legislators** who funded

EMS equipment and supported the capital budget.

There also are many others who contributed to the success of the project: **Merlaine Kruse**, of the USDA Rural Development Office, joined us on countless Code Blue teleconferences to provide key recommendations; **Sue Hecks**, **Greg Priddy**, and others, contributed compelling anecdotes to the initial Code Blue paper which made issues much more "real" for many; the staffs of the **Denali Commission** and the **Rasmuson Foundation** who made the project stronger through their guidance and support; and, the **regional EMS office staffs**, who provided critical research and technical support; and importantly, those who worked so hard at the local level to provide letters of support and to make matching funds available.

And, finally, thanks go to the Regional EMS Directors who toiled relentlessly, often putting their own personal lives on hold, to work on the Code Blue Project. The Code Blue Project steering group, comprised of **Ronni Sullivan**, **Dan Johnson**, **Bobbi Leichty**, **Aggie Lie**, **Mike Owens**, **Curt Madison**, **Dana Hall**, and **Vickie Green**, worked harder than anyone will ever know to help make this important project a reality. Alaska EMS is much better for their efforts.

Matt Anderson
EMS Unit Manager

And, last but not least, the project could not have been successful without the tremendous hard work of Matt Anderson.

Mark Johnson, Chief
Section of Community Health and EMS

Amendments to EMS Regulations in Place

Important new amendments to the EMS regulations regarding the suspension, revocation and denial of certification went into effect on June 23, 2001. The Department of Law maintains an up-to-date searchable on-line database of regulations accessible through its web site at <http://www.law.state.ak.us>. CHEMS has excerpted Title 7, which deals with emergency medical services, and placed them in a PDF file that can be downloaded from the CHEMS web site.

Readers are encouraged to become familiar with the changes, **including the new requirement that an EMT or EMS Instructor notify the department in writing within 30 days after being charged with a felony or Class A misdemeanor in Alaska or an offense with substantially similar elements in another state.**

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Anchorage Sub-Area

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